

Message Text

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67

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 EUR-12 COME-00

ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /051 W

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R 231553Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1367

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON

SUBJECT: DATES FOR FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON BANANAS MEETING

REF: ROME 16933

1. FAO IS HAVING A HARD TIME SCHEDULING NEXT MEETING OFATS INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON BANANAS. ACCORDING TO MULHERIN, THE SECRETARY OF UNION OF BANANA EXPORTING COUNTRIES (UPEB), WISHES TO AGAIN DELAY PROPOSED MARCH 21-26 DATES SO THE BANANA PRODUCERS CAN HOLD HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS WITH NEW US ADMINISTRATION AND EEC, SEE REFTEL.

2. A SHORT DELAY WOULD PUT IG ON BANANAS IN CONFLICT WITH SUGAR CONFERENCE NOW SCHEDULED FROM APRIL 18 TO MAY 27. A MEETING AFTER SUGAR CONFERENCE WOULD BE VERY CLOSE TO UNCTAD SCHEDULED PREPARATORY MEETING ON BANANAS JUNE 13-17. JUTE EXPERIENCE SHOWS FAO MEETING IN ROME IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY UNCTAD MEETING ON SAME COMMODITY SAVES TRAVEL MONEY BUT IS NOT VERY PRODUCTIVE SINCE THERE IS NO TIME FOR POLICY GUIDANCE, ADEQUATE REFLECTION ON ISSUES OR FOLLOW-UP PREPARATION OF DOCUMENTS. PER USUAL UNCTAD WILL NOT CHANGE THEIR DATES.

3. MULHERIN PREFERS TO KEEP MARCH DATE AND IS SEEKING
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IMPORTANT CONSUMER COUNTRY SUPPORT TO MEET UPEB INSISTANCE

ON POSTPONEMENT. SUGGEST GIVING MULHERIN LOW-KEY SUPPORT
FOR MAINTAINING MARCH DATES. ACTION REQUESTED: USG'S
PREFERRED DATES FOR HOLDING FAO IG ON BANANAS MEETING IN
ROME.BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME19143
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760436-0780
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761122/aaaaasmf.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ROME 16933
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DATES FOR FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON BANANAS MEETING
TAGS: OCON, FAO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006